THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Unit Trust of India (Amendment) Bill, 1985, *inter alia,* sees to enable the Unit Trust of India to transact the business of direct financing of housing and leasing.

Decline in Jute Goods' production

2430. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the output of jute goods has declined during the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The output of jute goods during the financial year 1984-85 at 13.68 lakh tonnes was highest during the last 4 years. The production has, however, come down to some extent during the last few months as a result of closure of a number of jute mills. Some of these mills have since reopened.

Tripoli Fair

2431. *SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:* Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in Tripoli fair held in April, 1985; and

(b) if so, the details of the business generated by the Indian companies in the fair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Fair was held from March 5—25, 1985.

(b) The business generated at the fair was Rs. 19.20 crores.

News-item captioned "12 held in Rs. 1,000 crores racket"

2432. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' on the 7th August, 1985 captioned "12 held in Rs. 1,000 crores racket"; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 contains adequate provisions to deal with such foreign exchange racketeers. Further, such a person can also be detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974, with a view to preventing him from acting in any manner prejudicial to the conservation or augmentation of foreign exchange. The Enforcement Directorate (Foreign Exchange Regulation Act) and the other sister agencies, e.g. the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, etc., remain vigilant in this regard. As and when any specific information is available, appropriate action, as per law, is taken.

The Government have also since decided to set up a Central Economic Intelligence Bureau with a view, *inter-alia* to improving the coordination between various agencies dealing with economic offences, e.g. Enforcement Directorate, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Directorate of Inspection (Income-tax) etc. The drive against such unauthorised transactions is a continuous process and the matter is constantly kept under review for taking appropriate measures with a view to curbing the same.